

Washington, DC- Congressman Harry Teague announced today that over \$300,000 was awarded to two Southern New Mexico tribes to be put towards diabetes education and prevention programs. The grants, part of Indian Health Service's Special Diabetes Program, work to combat the diabetes epidemic among American Indians and Alaska Natives across the country.

"Fostering health and preventative programs in our local tribes is extremely important. As many of these communities have limited resources, essential health education opportunities, like the Special Diabetes Program, often fall by the wayside," said Congressman Harry Teague. "By giving individuals the information and tools they need to stay healthy, we can improve the lives of those living with diabetes and work to lower the number of diabetes cases in the future."

The Ramah Navajo School Board will receive \$236,947 and the Acoma-Canoncito-Laguna Hospital was allocated \$90,512 through September 30, 2010 to fund this educational program. The Special Diabetes Program focuses on diabetes prevention in Native American communities. Additionally, the program places a strong emphasis on combating cardiovascular disease prevention in those previously diagnosed with diabetes. Cardiovascular disease is currently the number one cause of death among American Indian adults.

Congress established the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) in 1997. The Special Diabetes Program for Indians is currently a \$150 million per year grant program that provides funding for diabetes treatment and prevention services at 399 IHS, Tribal, and Urban Indian health programs in all 12 IHS Areas across the United States.

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